

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CONCESSIONS PERMIT RESUMPTION OF VIENNA TALKS

UNSYG WALDHEIM BELIEVES HE HAS AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR CON-
VENING CYPRUS TALKS IN VIENNA FEBRUARY 17. THE LOGJAM ON
THE TALKS BROKE WHEN:

--CAGLAYANGIL DROPPED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE SUBMISSION
IN WRITING OF TURKISH VIEWS; AND

--THE CYPRUS NATIONAL COUNCIL AGREED FEBRUARY 9 TO DIS-
CUSSION OF TERRITORIAL QUESTIONS AT VIENNA WHILE ABAN-
DONING ITS EARLIER INSISTENCE THAT THE TURKISH SIDE
OFFER TERRITORIAL PROPOSALS AT THE TALKS.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE

MADE AT NOON (EST), FEBRUARY 11, IN NEW YORK AND NICOSIA.
(CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 514, 2/10.)

2. COD WAR: UK WOULD LIKE TO GET OFF THE HOOK

EMBASSY LONDON HAS ANALYZED THE CURRENT VIEWS OF HMG TOWARD
THE FISHERIES DISPUTE AND CONCLUDES THAT THE UK:

--WANTS A FACE-SAVING WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT IMPASSE
WHICH DEMONSTRATES AT LEAST SOME SIGN OF ICELANDIC
FLEXIBILITY;

--WILL NOT UNCONDITIONALLY SURRENDER ITS INTERESTS
SOLELY TO SAVE ICELAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO;

--WILL BE KEENLY SENSITIVE TO ANY INCREASED PRESSURE
FROM LUNS, NATO OR THE US;

--INTENDS TO COOPERATE WITH THE LUNS MISSION BUT IS
PESSIMISTIC ABOUT ITS OUTCOME. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON
2145, 2/10.)

3. DEMIREL BESIEGED BY DOMESTIC WOES

EMBASSY ANKARA SEES THE DOMESTIC CHALLENGES FACING PRIME
MINISTER DEMIREL AS LIMITATIONS ON HIS FREEDOM TO CONDUCT
FOREIGN POLICY. IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS HIS GOVERNMENT WILL
COME UNDER ATTACK FOR:

--THE ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF GOVERNMENT MINISTERS;

--THE INCREASED LEVEL OF CIVIL VIOLENCE;

--THE FALTERING TURKISH ECONOMY.

A BUDGET VOTE FEBRUARY 12 OR 13 WILL BE DEMIREL'S FIRST
CONFRONTATION WITH THE OPPOSITION, WHICH FACES AN UPHILL
STRUGGLE TO DEFEAT THE PROPOSAL. THE STAKES ARE HIGH, HOW-
EVER, SINCE LOSS IN A BUDGET VOTE TRADITIONALLY HAS FORCED
THE GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN.

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AS THE TURKISH SENATE MET TO CONSIDER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
SECTION OF THAT BUDGET:

--CAGLAYANGIL SAID IT IS "OUT OF THE QUESTION" TO
SPEAK ABOUT "RENT" FROM AMERICAN USE OF TURKISH BASES
SINCE THE BASES WILL BE COMPLETELY UNDER THE ADMINI-
STRATION AND TECHNICAL DIRECTION OF TURKEY.

--AN OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN OBJECTED TO PRESSURE FROM THE US, SUCH AS THE REPORTED POSTPONEMENT BY CONGRESS OF CONSIDERATION OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL UNTIL AFTER CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT. (CONFIDENTIAL) ANKARA 1090, 2/10.)

4. SYRIA GIVES JORDANIAN MOVES PUBLIC BACKING

EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTS THAT SYRIA HAS WEIGHED IN HEAVILY TO FORESTALL FURTHER PALESTINIAN AND ARAB CRITICISM OF JORDAN'S DECISIONS AFFECTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE STATUS OF THE WEST BANK.

--ASAD TOLD THE THE PRESS THAT THE GOJ DECISION TO RECALL PARLIAMENT, DISSOLVE IT AND POSTPONE ELECTIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN "WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE" OF SYRIA AND THE PLO.

--A RELIABLE PALESTINIAN SOURCE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT RIFAI SECRETLY VISITED DAMASCUS TWO MONTHS AGO TO DISCUSS JORDANIAN STRATEGY TOWARD WEST BANK ELECTIONS WITH A THREE-MAN PLO DELEGATION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ASAD'S UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT SHOULD EFFECTIVELY UNDERCUT WHATEVER IS LEFT OF THE PALESTINIAN CAMPAIGN OPPOSING THE KING'S LATEST MOVES. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 752, 2/10.)

5. ARMS LIST FLAP HAS RABIN UNDER FIRE

EMBASSY TEL AVIV OBSERVES THAT RABIN'S DOMESTIC STANDING AND HIS POSITION WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY HAVE BEEN DAMAGED
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SINCE HIS RETURN FROM THE US. ALTHOUGH A NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE IN THE KNESSET FAILED FEBRUARY 9:

--SOME LABOR PARTY REPRESENTATIVES CONSIDERED RABIN'S COMMENT THAT THE US HAD TO CUT INTO THE INVENTORIES OF AMERICAN UNITS TO MEET ISRAELI ARMS REQUESTS AFTER THE YOM KIPPUR WAR TO BE UNNECESSARY FUEL FOR ANTI-ISRAELI ELEMENTS IN THE US.

--THE ARMS LIST FLAP HAS CAST A CLOUD OVER THE MORE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE US TRIP AND IS EVOKING MEMORIES OF EARLIER RABIN MISTAKES.

--TENSIONS BETWEEN RABIN AND PERES HAVE BEEN PAPERED OVER, NOT RESOLVED. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 994,

2/10.)

6. THAIS BACK DOWN ON FEBRUARY 29 ULTIMATUM

A THAI MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY BANGKOK THAT MARCH 20 IS THE FINAL DATE FOR REACHING A PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDING ON RESIDUAL FORCES. THE MEETING MADE CLEAR THAT:

--FEBRUARY 29 IS NOT A DEADLINE, AND THE THAIS WILL NOT ASK THE US TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS ON THAT DATE PROVIDED WE HAVE REACTED TO THE THAI NOTE PROPOSING A SET OF PRINCIPLES PRELIMINARY TO AN AGREEMENT.

--BY MARCH 20 THE THAI GOVERNMENT WANTS TO BE ABLE TO STATE EITHER THAT ALL US FORCES HAVE LEFT THAILAND OR THAT SOME NON-COMBAT FORCES REMAIN ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLES WHICH THE THAI PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT.

--THE THAIS REJECT THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT OF 1950 AS A BASIS FOR THE FUTURE STATUS OF US FORCES.
(SECRET) BANGKOK 3025 (LIMDIS), 2/10.) INGERSOLL

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